

AN ANALYSIS OF ENGLISH VOWELS PRODUCED BY WEST BORNEO MALAY LEARNERS OF ENGLISH

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ABSTRACT

The research aimed to know the characteristics of English vowels produced by West Borneo Malay learners of English toward the English vowels by native. The research describes the frequencies of the first two formants of English Vowels produced by West Borneo Malay learners of English.

This research was descriptive qualitative research. The samples of the research involved five males of West Borneo Malay as the subjects. The ten vowels were spoken in /hVd/ contexts by five men. The ten words were *heed, hid, hood, had, head, hudd, hoard, hard, who'd, and herd*. The researcher record the sentences of the subjects one by one using the Digital Voice Recorder. After that, the data was analyzed using the application of PRAAT 5.3.5.6 to get the frequencies of F1 and F2 of each vowel. Then, both formants were plotted to the Bark Scale to make easy the describing process the characteristics of English - L2 vowel production. Finally, the English-L2 F1 and F2 vowels are compared with the vowels of English native speakers.

The result of the research shows that there were many wrongs pronunciation of English vowels by the respondents. Almost all of the respondents pronounced the words as the written. They can not to distinguish the words with the same pronunciation. From the data analysis, on vowel /i:/ and vowel /ɪ/ mostly similar to each other. It is can be seen of both formant frequencies F1 455.8 Hz, F2 2033.2 Hz for /i:/, and F1 463.6 Hz, F2 1925.4 Hz for /ɪ/. Furthermore, the respondents can not distinguish the vowel /u:/ and /ʊ/ due to the identical pronunciation of the vowels. It can be concluded that many wrong perception of pronouncing the same English vowels.

Keywords: *formant, vowel frequencies, English-L1, L2*

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ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui karakteristik dari vokal bahasa Inggris yang diproduksi oleh pelajar Melayu dari Kalimantan Barat terhadap vokal bahasa Inggris yang di hasilkan oleh penutur bahasa Inggris asli. Penelitian ini mendeskripsikan frekuensi-frekuensi dua Formant pertama pada vokal bahasa Inggris yang diproduksi oleh pelajar Melayu Kalimantan Barat.

Penelitian ini adalah penelitian deskriptif kualitatif. Sampel penelitian ini yaitu 5 pelajar laki-laki dari Melayu Kalimantan Barat. Ada sepuluh vokal bahasa Inggris yang harus di ucapkan oleh pelajar-pelajar tersebut. Ke-sepuluh kata itu yaitu, *heed, hid, hood, had, head, hudd, hoard, hard, who'd, and herd*. Peneliti mengumpulkan data dengan cara merekam kalimat-kalimat yang diucapkan oleh subjek (pelajar) satu demi satu dengan menggunakan alat perekam suara khusus (Digital Voice Recorder). Setelah itu, data dianalisis menggunakan software Praat 5.3.5.6 untuk mendapatkan frekuensi-frekuensi Formant 1 (F1) dan Formant 2 (F2). Kemudian, kedua Formant diformulasikan bentuk *bark scale* agar lebih mudah dalam proses mendeskripsikan karakteristik produksi vokal bahasa Inggris. Terakhir, formant (F1) dari vokal bahasa Inggris oleh penutur ke-2 dan Formant (F2) dibandingkan dengan vokal Bahasa Inggris dari penutur asli.

Hasil dari penelitian menunjukkan bahwa masih cukup banyak kesalahan pengucapan pada vokal bahasa Inggris oleh para responden. Hampir semua responden mengucapkan kata seperti apa yang tertulis. Mereka tidak bisa membedakan kata-kata dengan pengucapan yang sama. Dari data analisis, pada vokal /i:/ dan vokal /ɪ/ hampir sama semua satu dengan yang lainnya. Itu bisa dilihat dari frekuensi Formant F1 455.8 Hz, F2 2033.2 Hz untuk /i:/, dan F1 463.6 Hz, F2 1925.4 Hz untuk /ɪ/. Lebih lanjut, para responden tidak bisa membedakan vokal /u:/ dan /ʊ/ dikarenakan pengucapan vokal itu yang serupa. Jadi, bisa disimpulkan bahwa masih banyak kesalahan persepsi pada pengucapan vokal bahasa Inggris yang serupa.

Kata kunci: Formant, frekuensi vokal, Bahasa Inggris L1-L2.

INTRODUCTION

Language shows a Nationality of the people. Language is most related to the speakers, like the English language, the popularity of their nationalities were caused by their language that used most of the nations in the world (Suwardi and Zulkarnain, 2010: 5). English is the international language that using by the people around the world. English is the most commonly used language among foreign language speakers. Throughout the world, when people with different languages come together they commonly use English to communicate. Consequently, all of the people need to learn English for the higher education. It is the store of all knowledge of all books. All the books on higher education of every branch of knowledge are written in English.

To master a language, we should know not only their histories but also we have to learn the structures the language. In English, there are four basic skills should be learning, such as listening, reading, speaking, and writing. Someone has become a good English learner if she/he can speak English well. We need to master the English language well as the key to the international communication. Many people especially the students sometimes have no interest to learn English. If the students have the lack of interesting, thus they will have the lack of awareness about English.

Every language in the world have the different phonology like the vowels of the Malay is differ to English vowels. It is caused by the accent and how to pronunciation the words in each country are different. For example in English says "try" (traɪ), but in Malay, "try" is pronounced like "terai". Phonology is the subfield of linguistics that studies the structure and systematic patterning of sounds in human language (Akmajian, et al., 2001: 12). Phonology is one of the core fields that composes the discipline of linguistics, which is defined as the scientific study of language structure. One way to understand what the subject matter of phonology is to contrast it with other fields within linguistics (Odden, 2005:2).

The general study of the characteristics of speech sounds is called phonetics. Our main interest will be in articulatory phonetics, which is the study of how speech sounds are made, or articulated. Other areas of study are acoustic phonetics, which deals with the physical properties of speech as sound waves in the air, and auditory phonetics (or perceptual phonetics) which deals with the perception, via the ear, of speech sounds (Yule, 2010:26).

Phonetics is the study of the speech sounds of human language in general, either from the perspective of their production (articulatory phonetics), their perception (auditory phonetics), or their physical properties (acoustic phonetics) (Brinton,2010:11). In phonology, there are discuss the vowels, consonants, and diphthongs. But, in this research will be focused only on English vowels produced by West Borneo Malay learners of English. The sound is called Vowels if there is no an obstruction on the vocal cord so that there is no articulation (Marsono,2013:16).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Second Language Acquisition (SLA) refers to the study of how students learn a second language (L2) additionally to their first language (L1). A more significant distinction is made between acquisition and learning. The term acquisition is used to refer to the gradual development of ability in a language by using it naturally in communicative situations with others who know the language. The term learning, however, applies to a more conscious process of accumulating knowledge of the features, such as vocabulary and grammar, of a language, typically in an institutional setting. Mathematics, for example, is learned, not acquired. (Yule: 2010: 187).

Phonetics is the study of speech sounds (Knight: 2012: 3). As we know that *Phonetics* is subdivision of Phonology, the study about sounds in human language. in Phonetics there are discuss many things such as

articulation, intonation, IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet), Consonants, Vowels, etc. But in this research the researcher only discuss about the English Vowels produced by West Borneo Malay Learners.

The Malay language is the unity language and the biggest and the foremost in the Southeast Asia. Nowadays, Indonesia become the important and the central of development of Malay, and Malaysia takes the second place (Suwardi and Zulkarnain: 2010: 13). Generally the front vowels like /e/ and /i/ are uttered with the widened lip and back vowels like /u/ and /o/ are uttered with the rounded lip. As the orthographic, the phonem of vowels /e/ and /u/ ae, are written similar to the original sounds like [e] and [u] and also the pronunciation of its similar to the pronouncing of *sate* and *susu* in Indonesia due to these syllable is the opened syllable.

Here, researcher only discussing about Vowels of English as part of the Phonetics system. The vowel [i] as in *heed* is called *high front*, meaning, roughly, that the tongue is high and in the front of the mouth but, more precisely, that it has the auditory quality we will call *high*, and the auditory quality *front*.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

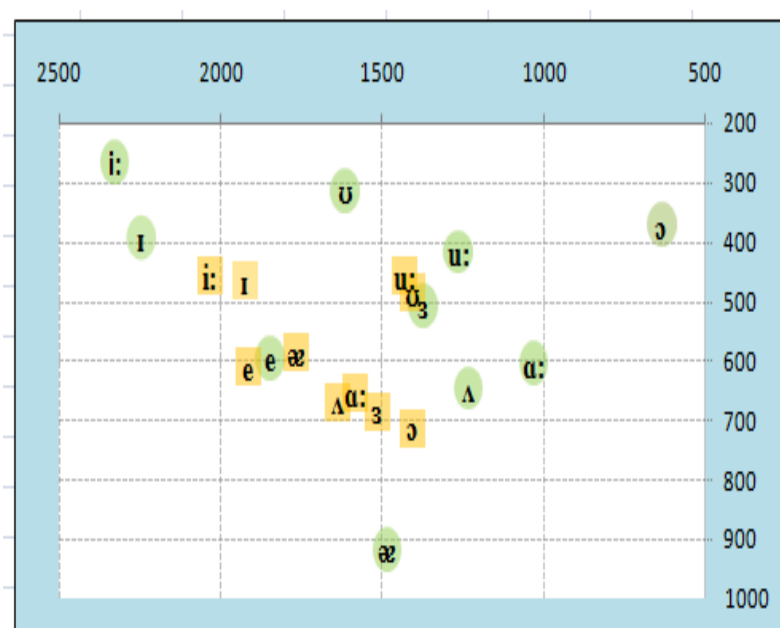
In this research the researcher use the Descriptive Qualitative method. The descriptive analysis is to analyze and presenting the fact systematically so that it could be easier to understand and concluded. The conclusion based on the numeric with no deepen process (Azwar, 2013:6). The research involves five man subjects who are the native speaker of West Borneo Malay. They are as the students in Yogyakarta, and also usually use the Malay language in their daily communication if they have together.

The instrument in this research is the researcher and help by recording tools, like the voice recorder. It is to analyze the speech production. The analysis of the data was analyzed by using PRAAT. The

software showing the drawing waveform, spectrogram, formant frequencies and the other features.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In the picture seen there are some vowels that are close to each other. After being calculated on average and in comparison with the results of the English native speakers. It is seen that vowels / ɪ / and / i: / for English L2 are close each other as well as vowels / ɪ / and / i: / for English L1. The image is clearly visible if English L1 is higher than English L2. When viewed from the frequency, F1 455.8, F2 2033.2 for / i: / English L2 and F1 265, F2 2328.6 for / i: / English L1, It can be seen that there is a difference in F2 where English L1 is higher than F2 in English L2 and vice versa F1 English L1 is lower than English L2.



Comparison of English- L1 and English L2.

Note: ■ English L2
● English L1

As can be seen from the data in figure, it turns out that for F1 English L2 is higher than F1 English L1 is on all vowels except on vowels /

æ / for English L2 which is lower than / æ / in English L1. There can be seen average frequency vowel / æ / that is F1 916 for English L1 and F1 584,6 for English L2. Then for the average frequency F2, it is also seen that for F2 in English L2 is higher than that of English L1 which is also almost in all vowels except vowel / i: / and / ɪ / which is higher in English L1 than English L2. In the picture, it is also clear that for vowels on English L1 almost nothing is close to each other compared to the English L2 that still many clustered vowels. It shows that the respondents - English L2 respondents still not much can distinguish the pronunciation of each vowel with an identical pronunciation.

CONCLUSION

The analysis results show that almost all frequencies F1 and F2 in English L2 were higher than English L1. Only in vowel /i/ and / ɪ / on English L1 the frequencies were higher than the frequencies in vowel / i / and / ɪ / on English L2. Frequencies in vowel / i / and / ɪ / for English L1 both F1 and F2 have higher results compared to vowel / i / and / ɪ / for English L2. Additionally, a significant difference also shows that vowels produced by West Borneo Malay learners (English L2), more vowels were overlapped to each other, contrasted to the vowels produced by native English (English L1) that none of them were overlap.

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